

L., *Scrophularia Marylandica*, L., *Lophanthus scrophulariaefolius*, Benth., *Iva frutescens* L., and *Aster salicifolius*.

Their abundance or scarcity, however, depends greatly upon the season as does the vegetation of the whole Island, a dry summer shrinking it to a noticeable degree, while in a moist season it thrives with the greatest luxuriance.

It will thus be seen that the flora of the Island has not diminished in number of species in the interval of twenty years and that the fears expressed by Mr. Young regarding its future have happily to this date been unfulfilled; but the same predictions he made may be safely renewed to-day; the same danger and additional ones hang over it, threatening the "fate of one of the most interesting botanical stations in this part of the country."

The island grove is a great resort for haymakers, hoboes and Hibernians. Haymakers on the marshes stack up great mounds of hay along the borders and take their noon-day rest in its shade. Tramps on their travels between Lynn and Boston make it a rendezvous and several times has the writer in the gloom of a summer evening come upon them as they were preparing a resting place for the night; and Hibernians—well, if one would see the Island in its full glory it should be visited on the occasion of one of their annual excursions.

Fortunately the picnic grounds being in the eastern part, the damage done on these festive occasions has not as yet proved a very serious injury.

SOME CASES OF POISONING BY CYPRIPEDIUM SPECTABILE IN VERMONT.

ALICE E. BACON.

SOME months ago Mr. W. W. Eggleston of Rutland narrated an experience indicating that our beautiful pink and white lady's slipper is poisonous, at least to some people. In the summer of 1889 he collected an armful of this plant from a swamp near Rutland and had the flowers near his face a great deal to inhale their fragrance. About a week afterward his forehead and the inner sides of his

wrists began to break out. The second day his entire face was badly swollen and on the fourth the swelling was so extreme that he was unable to see and later his features were so distorted as to be scarcely recognizable. The attack lasted more than two weeks.

About a month after his recovery Mr. Eggleston, not suspecting the cause of the poisoning, went to the same swamp and again collected plants of the lady's slipper. Another attack ensued, similar to the first but less severe. He did not attribute the trouble to the *Cypripedium*, however, until it was suggested by Professor Jesup of Dartmouth College. The swamp was full of poison ivy, but Mr. Eggleston has always been able to handle that with impunity.

A second case of *Cypripedium* poisoning has been reported by President Ezra Brainerd of Middlebury College. He states that on one occasion after he had gathered the plant, his sister, who accompanied him and handled the specimens, showed symptoms of serious poisoning, which he attributed to *Rhus venenata*, although the *Cypripedium* was gathered at a higher altitude than the usual habitat of the poison sumach, and a careful search afterward failed to reveal any of the latter in that locality.

On another occasion a year or two later a large quantity of the lady's slipper was gathered and tied with a handkerchief. The day being warm, the collector used the handkerchief to remove the perspiration from her face. There ensued a most serious case of poisoning affecting the face and eyes as in Mr. Eggleston's case, and lasting about the same length of time.

The narration of Mr. Eggleston's experience recalled to the writer of this note that each year after gathering this lady's slipper, which grows in abundance about Bradford, she had also been severely poisoned, but had attributed the trouble to *Rhus Toxicodendron* or *R. venenata*, both of which have proved exceedingly unpleasant subjects in her case even when they have not been directly handled but have been simply growing among other plants, imparting their poison to them and from them to her.

As the symptoms of the *Cypripedium* poisoning had not been noted accurately enough for description, one of Mother Eve's direct descendants determined to investigate and gratify her curiosity. The experiment was made in October when the poison was probably not so virulent as when the plant was in full vigor. A stalk was gathered from a clump of *C. spectabile*, which had been under cultiva-

tion and perfectly isolated from any possibility of contact with poison ivy or any other noxious plant. Sufficient exercise was taken to open the pores of the skin. Leaves and stalk were then freely rubbed on the back of the right hand and all around the wrist and fore arm. The effects were as follows:

First day — slight reddening and itching of the parts inoculated.

Second day — swelling in blotches; these quite red; burning sensation in the blotches; no fever perceptible.

Third day — general symptoms of poisoning manifesting themselves, continuing to increase to the sixth day; right hand and arm swollen; blotches dark red; great burning and itching; temperature 100.3° at the highest; pulse 98; headache across the temples; blotches also on the left arm and hand, across the chest, under the arms, and one on the face — all points where the poisoning had appeared in June.

None of these last mentioned blotches were so red or became so troublesome as the spots directly inoculated. Vesication ensued in some of the blotches, followed the ninth day by desquamation. Application of *Hamamelis virginiana* relieved the burning, but as symptoms rather than alleviatives were in question remedies were used sparingly. The tenth day the trouble had disappeared except for a slight redness and the last few white scales.

Further tests will be made next June when the plant is in flower, as it seems probable that that is the time when the poison is most potent. Attempts will also be made to study a remedy.

It is with regret that one of our most beautiful wild flowers must thus be branded with such a vicious reputation; but the conclusion seems irresistible that there is a poisonous property about it which is exceedingly irritating to some skins, although many people are able to handle the plant with perfect safety.

BRADFORD, VERMONT.

Since writing the above I have learned from the Gray Herbarium that the poisonous properties of *Cypripedium spectabile* have been discussed in print by the following writers:

Prof. H. H. Babcock in *The Pharmacist*, January, 1875. (Both *C. pubescens* and *C. spectabile* regarded as poisonous.)

G[eorge] T[hurber], *Bull. Torr. Bot. Club*, vi. 11. (A review of the preceding.)

Dr. R. E. Kunze, *Rhus* versus *Cypripedium*, Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, vi. 22. (Poisonous qualities of our *Cypripediums* denied.)

Botanical Gazette, xii, 275. (Editorial mention.)

Prof. H. G. Jesup, Bot. Gaz. xviii. 142. (Instances of poisoning by *C. spectabile* recorded briefly.)

Dr. D. T. MacDougal, Minnesota Botanical Studies, i. 32-36. (Records a conclusive experiment showing poisonous qualities of *C. spectabile*.)

V. K. Chesnut, Principal Poisonous Plants, Bull. 20, U. S. Dept. Agric., Div. Bot. 1898, pp. 19, 20. (Compiled from the preceding and without new data.)

As widely divergent opinions have been expressed in these papers and as the poisonous qualities of *C. spectabile*, although rightly suspected by Professors Babcock and Jesup, and definitely demonstrated by Dr. MacDougal, are not widely known, there seems room for the independently prepared notes presented above.—A. E. B.

THE DISCOVERY OF COMANDRA LIVIDA AND LYCOPODIUM SITCHENSE ON MT. WASHINGTON.

W. W. EGGLESTON.

SINCE Mt. Washington has been so thoroughly explored by a multitude of good botanists, it gives one a glow of pleasure to find a new alpine species there. This was particularly so to me, for but a short time before I had been told by one of the old enthusiasts in the botany of the region that there was no chance of new discoveries there.

In company with Mr. H. E. Sargent I made a delightful two days' trip about the mountain June 25 and 26, 1901. We had never visited the station for *Rubus Chamaemorus* at Mt. Clinton on account of its great distance from our usual base, the Glen; but on the morning of June 26th we started on our long 25 mile trip from the Half Way House on the carriage road over to Mt. Clinton and back by the carriage road to the Glen. On reaching Mt. Clinton, it proved very difficult to find flowering specimens of the *Rubus* so late in the season; and it was during a search for these that I found